

January 7, 2003

All Interested Agencies, Organizations, and Persons

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
SONOMA COAST STATE BEACH
PRELIMINARY GENERAL PLAN / DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT**

A draft environmental impact report (EIR) has been prepared by the California Department of Parks and Recreation (Department) for the Sonoma Coast State Beach Preliminary General Plan (General Plan). The Department is the lead agency, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), responsible for preparation of this document.

Project Location:

Sonoma Coast State Beach extends approximately 19 miles from Bodega Head in the vicinity of Bodega Bay to beyond the Vista Trail, located 4 miles north of the coastal community of Jenner in Sonoma County.

Project Description:

The purpose of the proposed project is to develop a General Plan guiding future management and development at the Sonoma Coast State Beach. The Sonoma Coast State Beach provides various recreational opportunity including hiking, horseback riding, surfing, camping, scenic driving, rock climbing, whale watching, wildlife viewing, picnicking, and beachcombing.

The General Plan contains a comprehensive and cohesive set of park-wide and zone-specific goals and guidelines for the long-term direction of the Sonoma Coast State Beach. Several park management zones and overlay zones are identified in the plan, providing detailed direction tailored to the particular environmental resource characteristics of each zone. The four zones – Coastal Management, Inland Watershed, Natural Resource Overlay, and Cultural Resource Overlay - provide high-quality park experiences for visitors while enhancing and preserving features that make the Sonoma Coast State Beach a unique destination. A number of improvements are identified in the General Plan's goals and guidelines.

Summary of Impacts:

The EIR provides a program-level analysis of the potential environmental impacts associated with the General Plan. No significant environmental impacts would occur as a result of the proposed project.

Public Review and Comment Period:

The 45-day public review and comment period for the Draft EIR began on January 6, 2004, and will end on February 20, 2004. Copies of the Preliminary General Plan and Draft EIR are available on the California State Parks website (<http://www.parks.ca.gov>) and at the following locations:

California State Parks, North Bay District, Russian River Sector Office
25381 Steelhead Boulevard
Duncan Mills, CA 95430

California State Parks, Sonoma Coast State Beach, Salmon Creek Park Office
3095 Coast Highway 1
Bodega Bay, CA 94923

California State Parks Armstrong Redwoods State Preserve Office
17000 Armstrong Redwoods Road
Guerneville, CA 95446

Sonoma County Library, Central Branch
799 Third Street
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

Sonoma County Library, Guerneville Regional Library
14107 Armstrong Woods Road
Guerneville, CA 95446

Sonoma County Library, Sebastopol Regional Library
7140 Bodega Avenue
Sebastopol, CA 95472

Submission of Public Comment:

Please submit comments in writing to the following address:

California Department of Parks and Recreation
Northern Service Center
One Capital Mall, Suite 500
Sacramento, CA 95814
Contact: Wayne Woodroof

Public comment letters must be postmarked by **February 20, 2004**.

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